

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

NO. 91 US \$1.99
FEB. CAN \$2.19

THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!

SONIC



THE HEDGEHOG

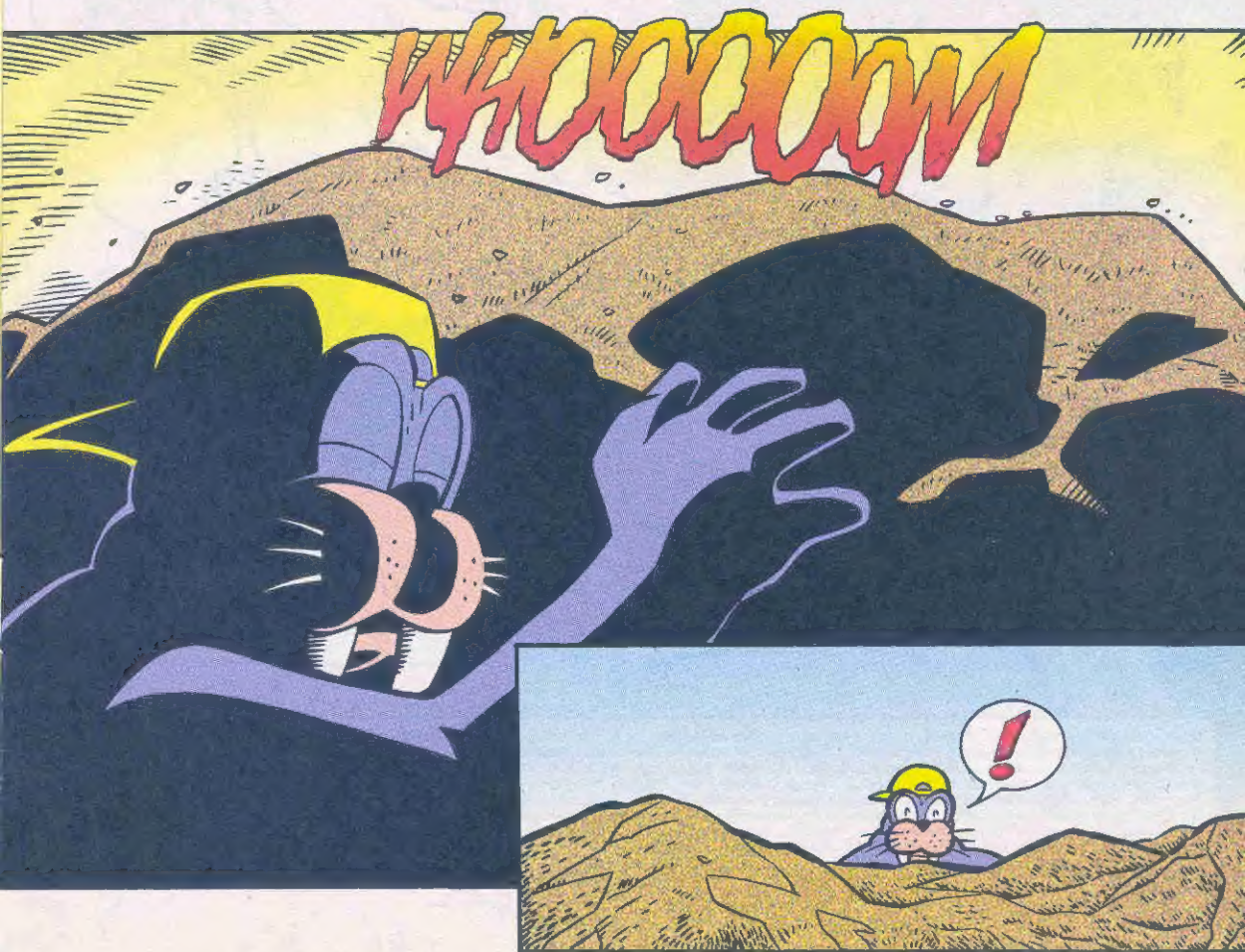
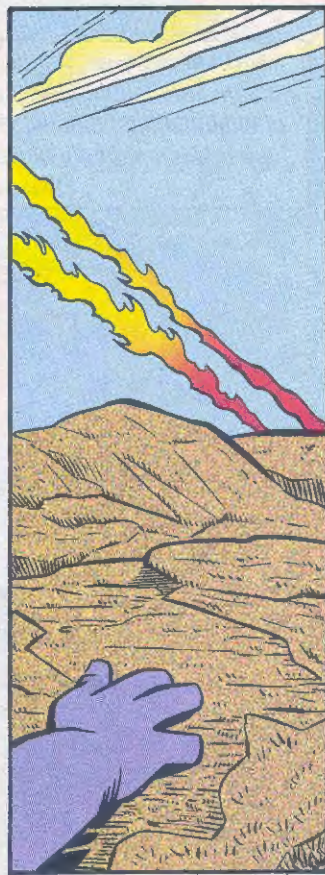
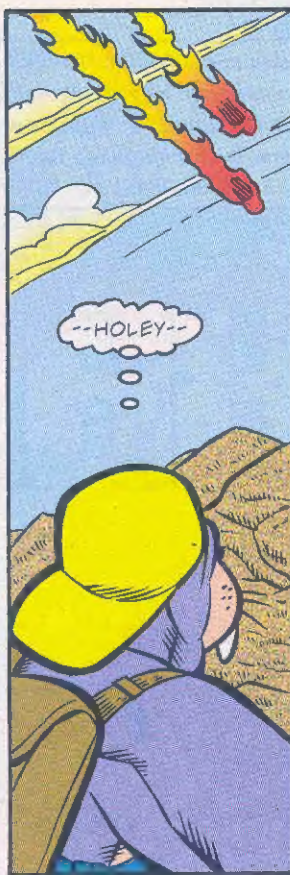


DIRECT EDITION



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SPAZ
PENDERS



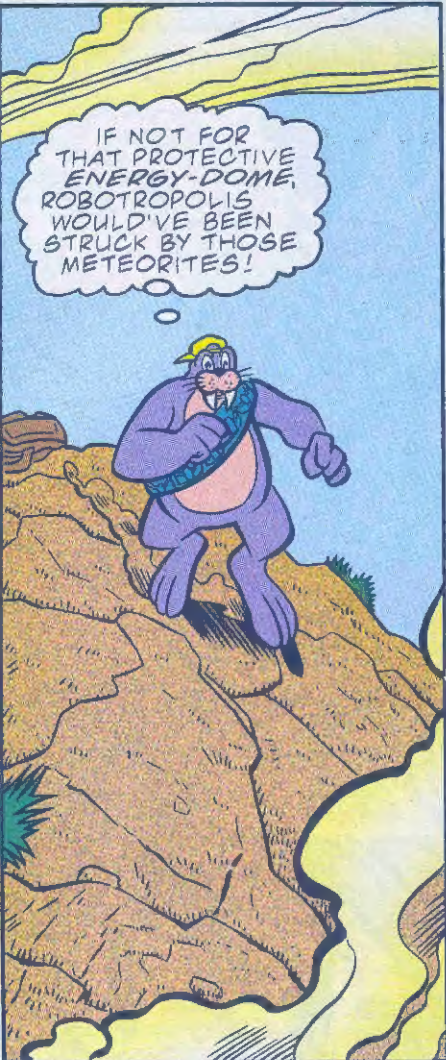
After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his polluted factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

CRASH!

WOW!

KARL BOLLERS - WRITER
RON LIM - PENCILS
JIM AMASH - INKER
J. POWELL - LETTERER
FRANK GAGLIARDO
COLORIST
J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR
VICTOR GORELICK
MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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IF NOT FOR THAT PROTECTIVE ENERGY-DOME, ROBOTROPOLIS WOULD'VE BEEN STRUCK BY THOSE METEORITES!



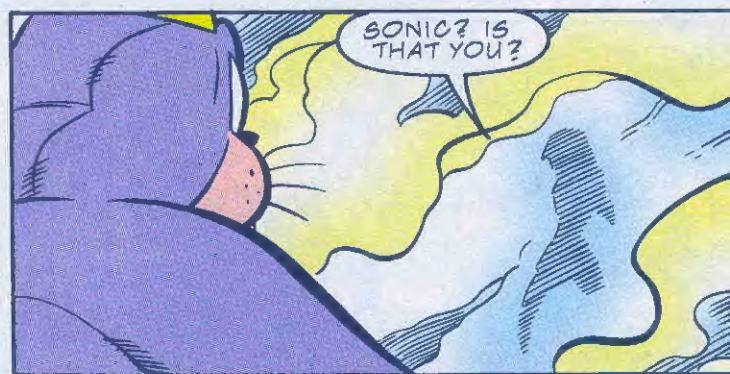
I KNOW THE CITY'S NO LONGER MOBIAN-FRIENDLY, BUT I'VE JUST GOTTA CHECK OUT THAT CRASH SITE!

SMOKE'S SO THICK, I CAN'T SEE A THING!

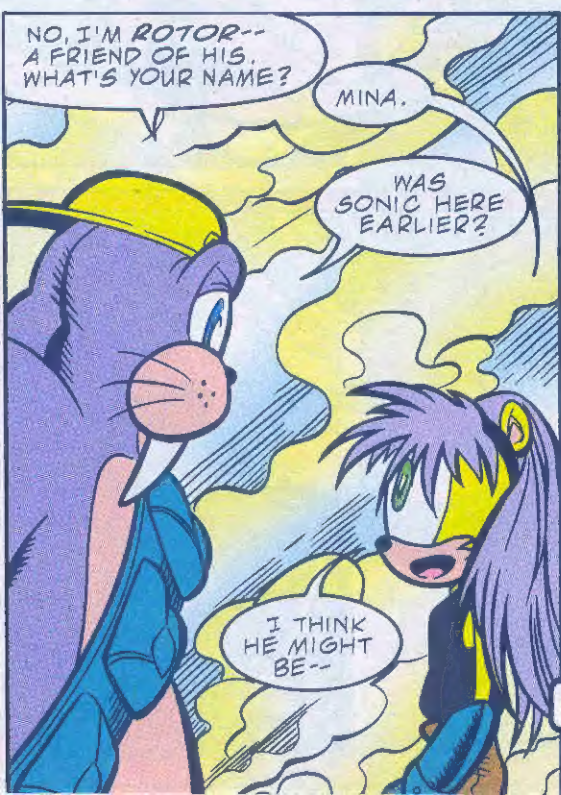


SONIC!

SONIC!



SONIC? IS THAT YOU?



NO, I'M ROTOR-- A FRIEND OF HIS. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

MINA.

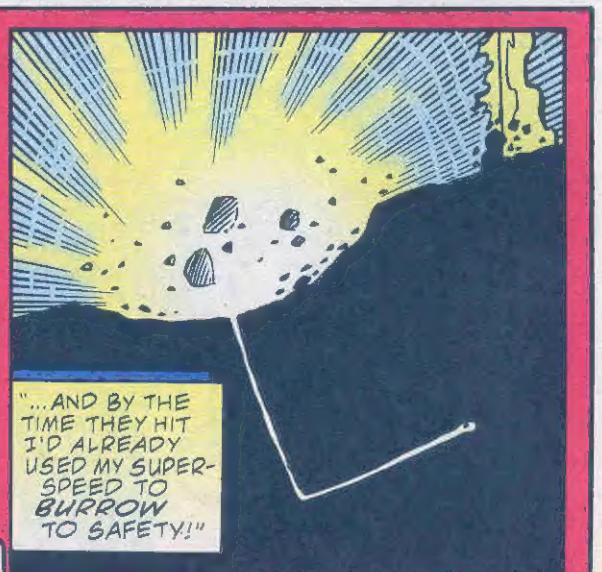
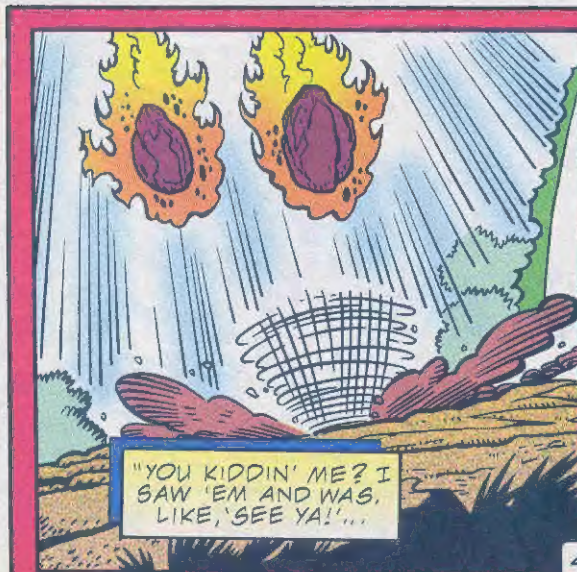
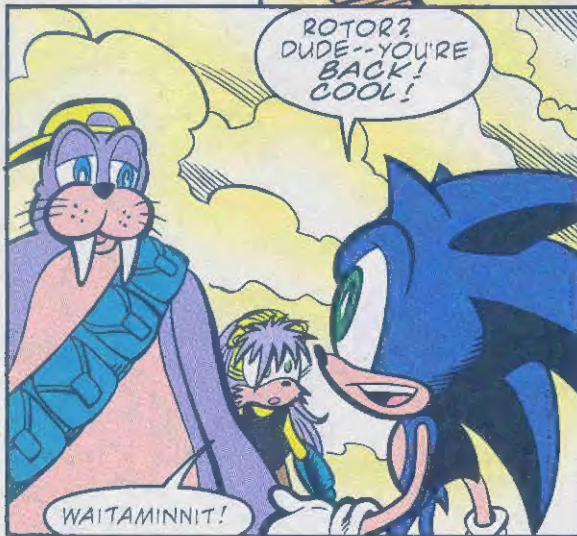
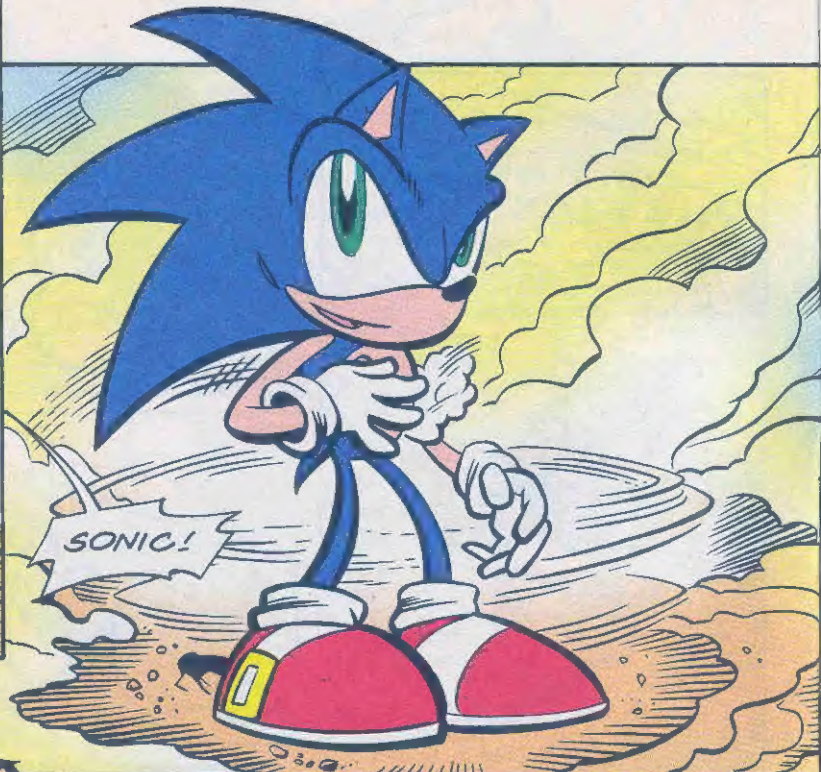
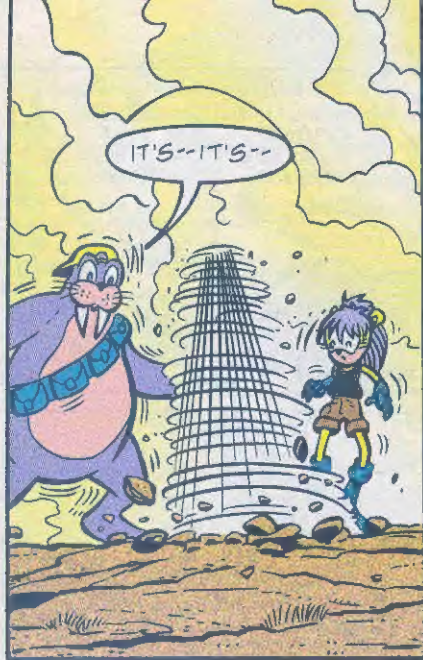
WAS SONIC HERE EARLIER?

I THINK HE MIGHT BE--



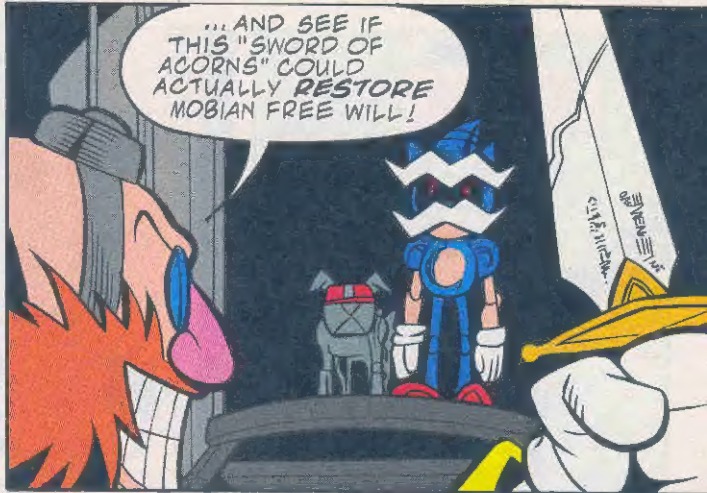
RRRMMBLL

WHAT NOW?

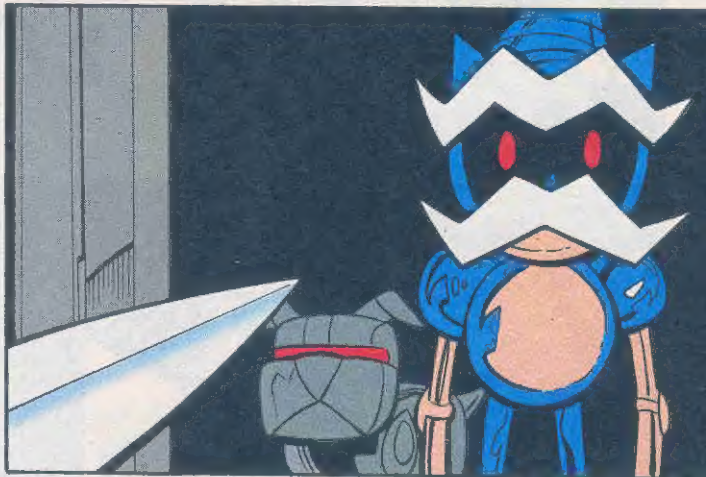


DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S
BASE...

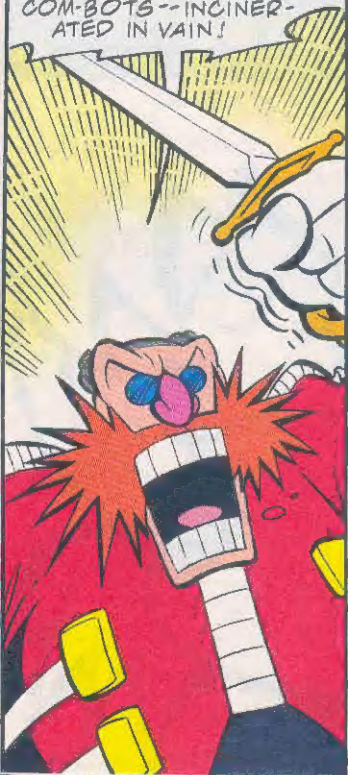
NOW THAT THOSE
METEORITES HAVE
FALLEN--AND KILLED
SONIC TO BOOT--I CAN
SHUT OFF MY ENERGY-
SHELL...



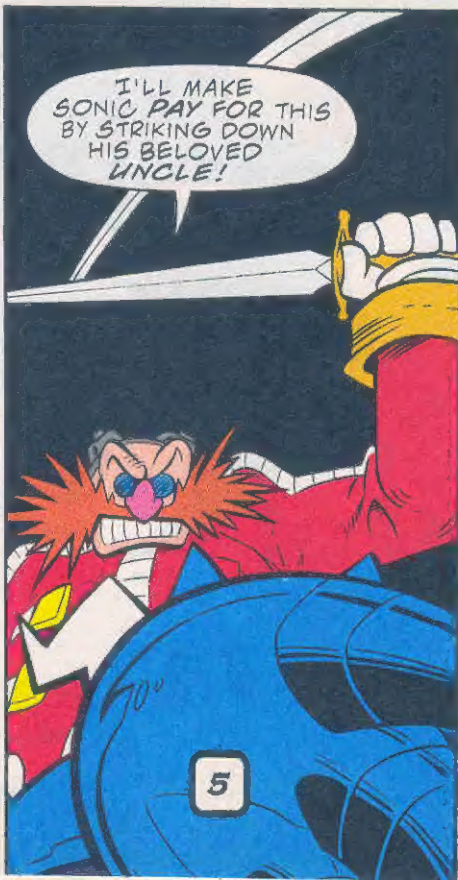
...AND SEE IF
THIS "SWORD OF
ACORNS" COULD
ACTUALLY **RESTORE**
MOBIAN FREE WILL!



AAARRRGHHH!
USELESS! IT'S USE-
LESS! MY PRECIOUS
COM-BOTS--INCINER-
ATED IN VAIN!



I'LL MAKE
SONIC PAY FOR THIS
BY STRIKING DOWN
HIS BELOVED
UNCLE!



BAH! IT'S
UNGRATIFYING
IF HE'S NOT HERE
TO SEE ME
DO IT!



KLANK

KNOTHOLE
KINGDOM...

I'M HAVING
DIFFICULTY BELIEVING
YOUR SECRET SERVICE
WOULDN'T HAVE
NOTICED ANYONE
ENTER OR EXIT,
GEOFFREY!

COULD THE
SWORD'S DISAPPEARANCE
BE THE HANDIWORK OF
THIEVES?

HIGHLY UNLIKELY,
SIRE. DOES A PIRATE
STEAL A TREASURE
CHEST TO PURLOIN BUT
A SINGLE GEM?

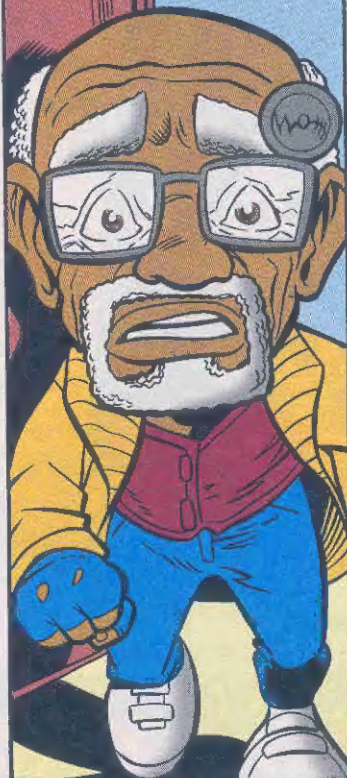
WHOEVER IT
WAS TARGETED THE
SWORD OF ACORNS
SPECIFICALLY!

THE KNOTHOLE
MEDICAL CENTER...

MY ENTIRE
FAMILY HAS BEEN
FINALLY REUNITED,
ONLY TO LEARN THAT
DAD HAS BEEN PARA-
LYZED FROM THE
WAIST DOWN...



MAX?!



NATE
MORGAN?

I CAME
AS SOON AS I
HEARD THE NEWS.
HOW IS HE?

SLEEPING.

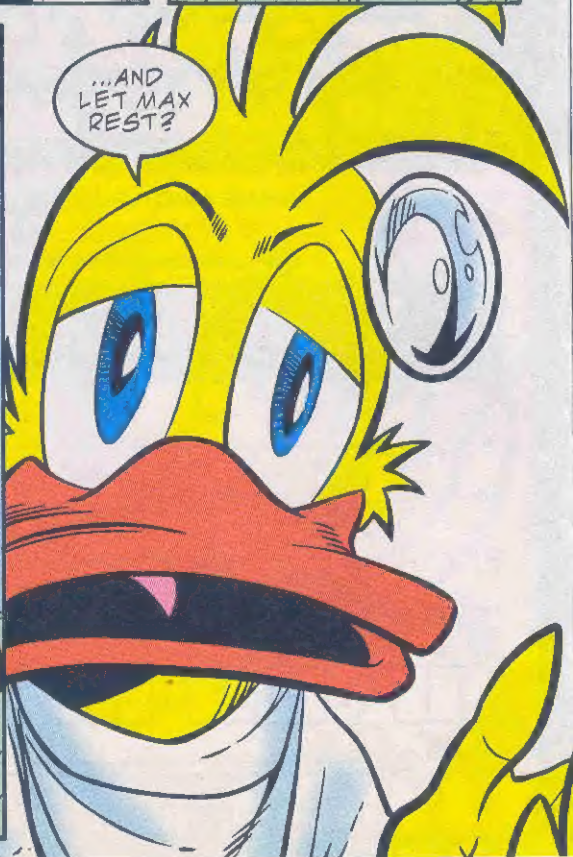


HE SHOULD
NEVER HAVE GONE
INTO BATTLE.

A BIT LATE
FOR THAT, OLD-TIMER.
WHY DON'T YOU AND
SALLY SHOW THE
QUEEN SOMEPLACE
BESIDES THESE FOUR
WALLS...



...AND
LET MAX
REST?



ALREADY
SEEMS LIKE OLD
TIMES AGAIN--
US VERSUS
ROBOTNIK.

YEAH! ONLY IT'S
NOT THE ROBOTNIK WE
KNEW AND HATED. THIS
BOZO'S FROM ANOTHER
ZONE, AND TEN
TIMES AS EVIL!

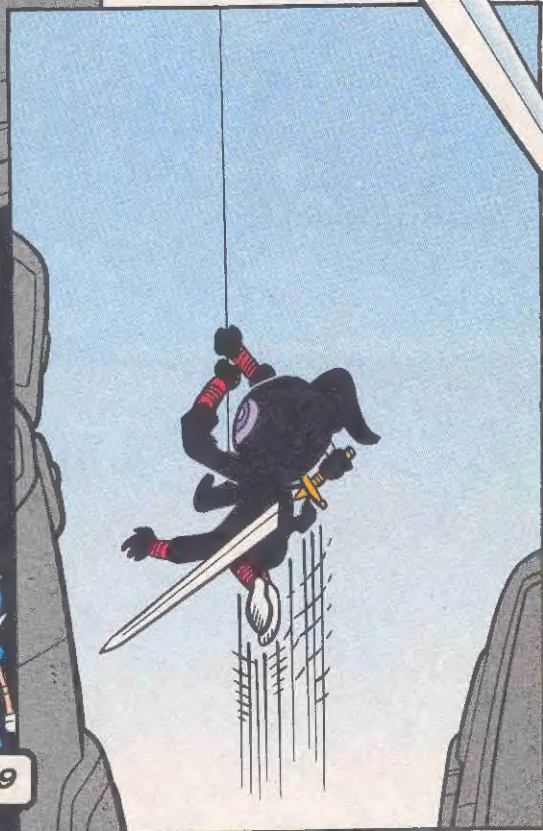
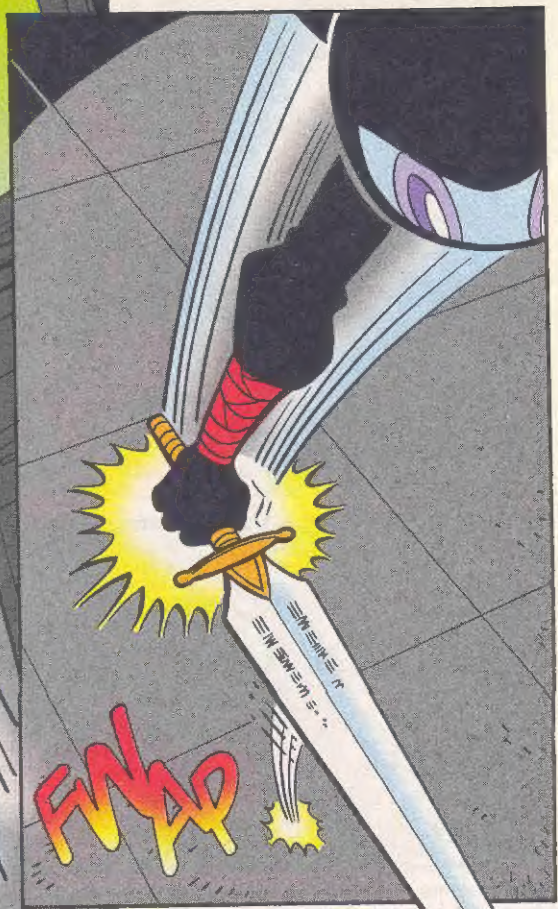
YOU TWO
HEAD BACK TO
KNOTHOLE
AY-SAP!

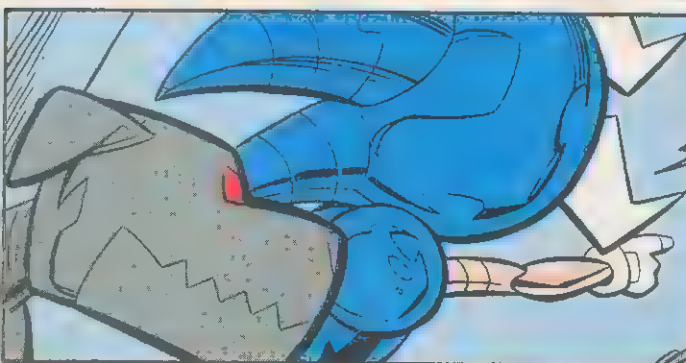
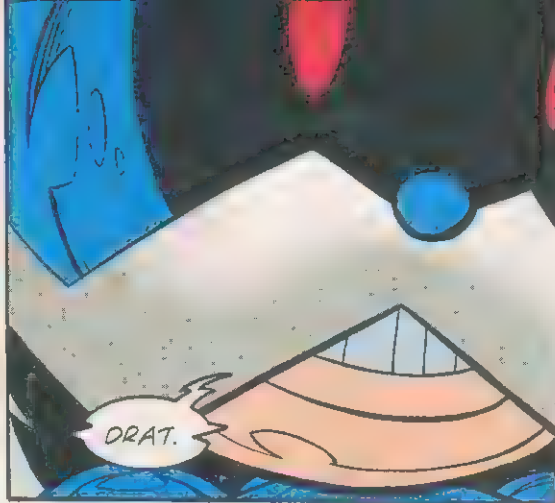
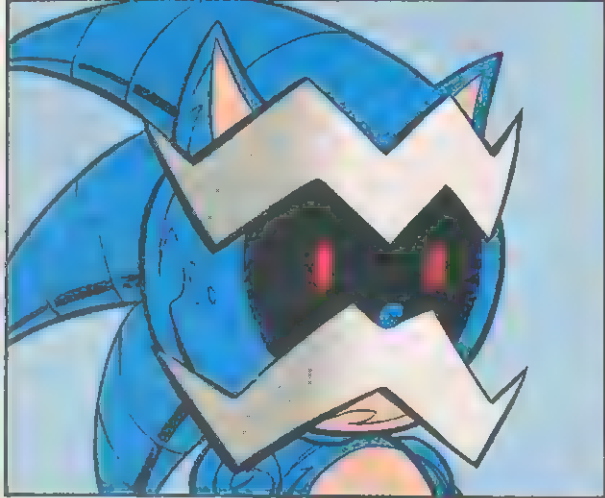
WHAT...
WHAT ABOUT
YOU?

I LOST THE
SWORD OF ACORNS
TO THE EGGMAN...

...NOW IT'S
MY DUTY TO GET
IT BACK!

LET'S GO
KIDDO...

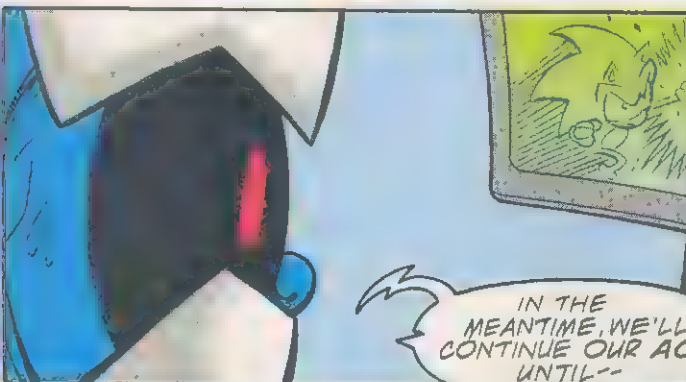




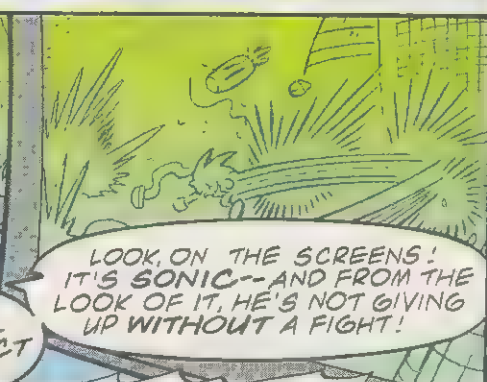
COULDN'T RISK TRYING TO STOP ARACHNIS FROM STEALING THE SWORD, MUTTSKI. WOULD'VE CAUSED A COMMOTION...

...AND ROBOTNIK WOULD'VE LEARNED WE'RE NOT UNDER HIS CONTROL ANYMORE. PROBABLY BETTER THAT SHE'S GOT IT...

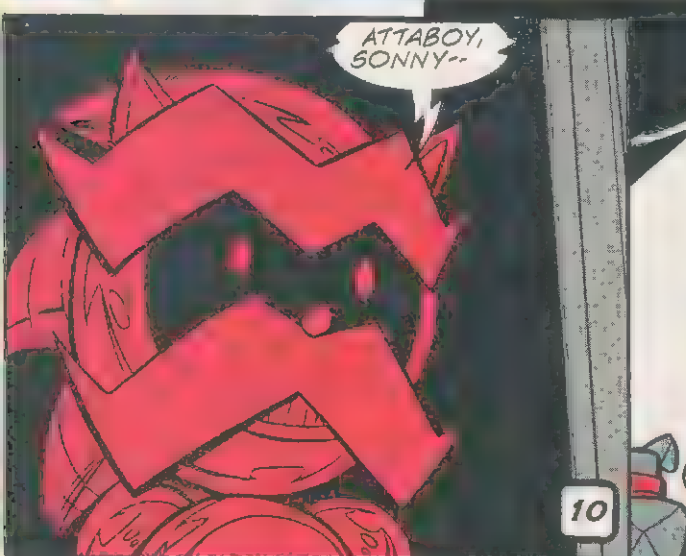
...OR HE MIGHT'VE TESTED IT ON ANOTHER ROBBIAN AND LEARNED THAT IT RESTORES FREE WILL.



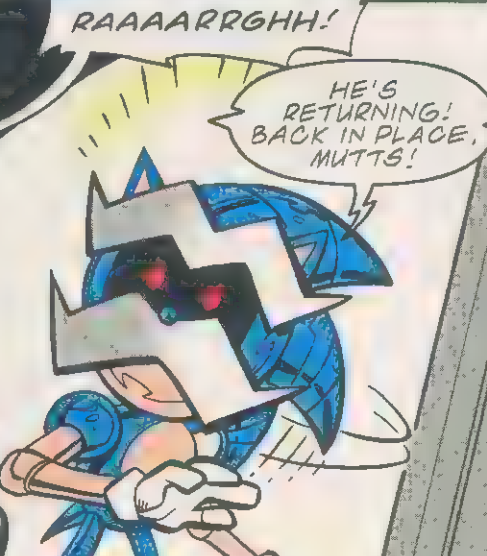
IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL CONTINUE OUR ACT UNTIL--



LOOK, ON THE SCREENS! IT'S SONIC-- AND FROM THE LOOK OF IT, HE'S NOT GIVING UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!

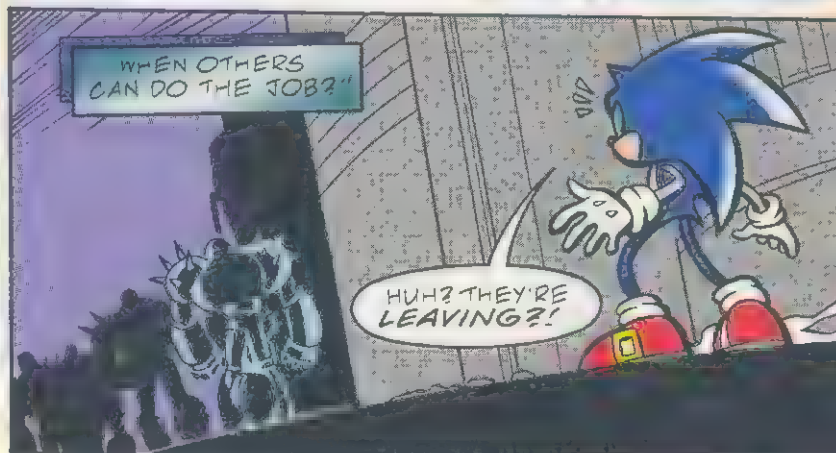
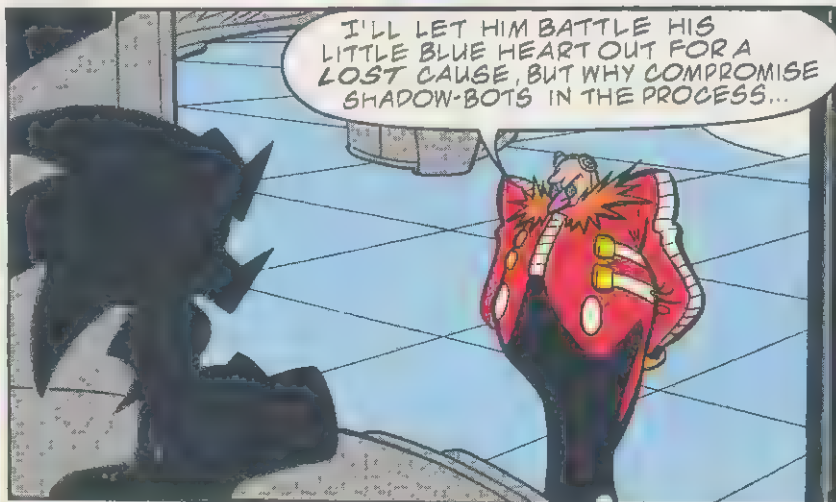
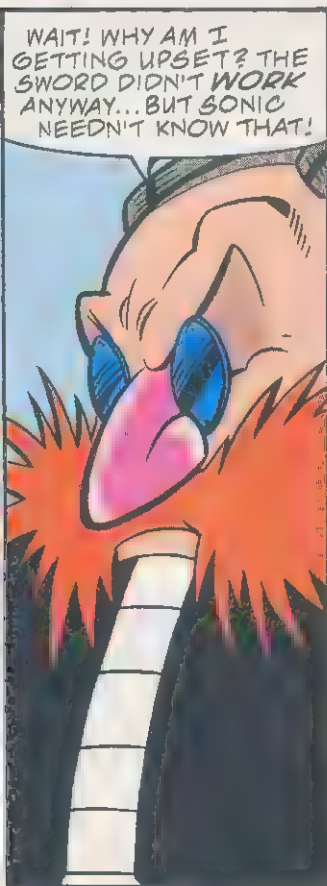
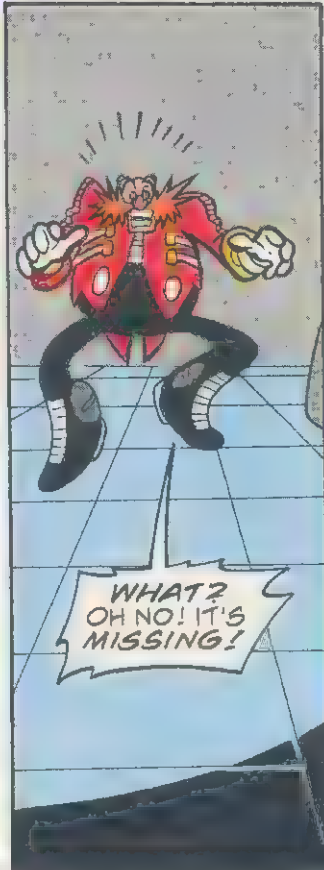
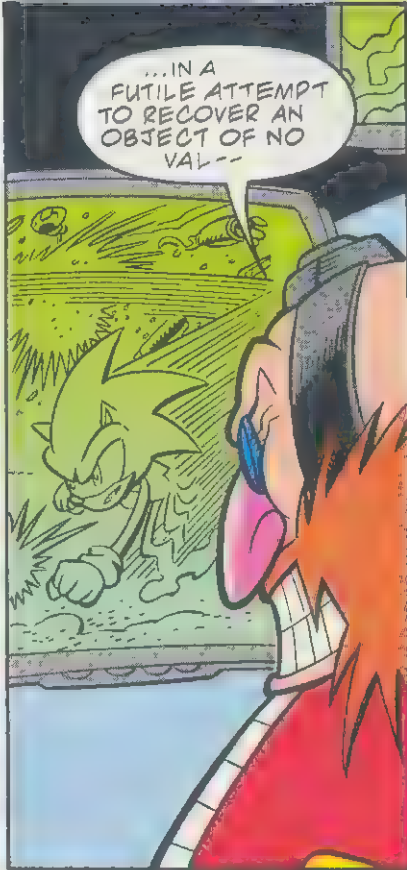


ATTABOY, SONNY--



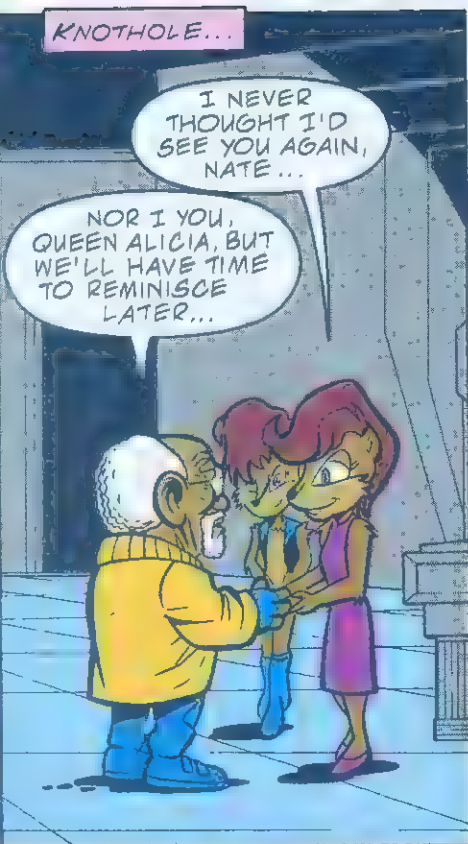
RAAAARRGHH!

HE'S RETURNING! BACK IN PLACE, MUTTS!

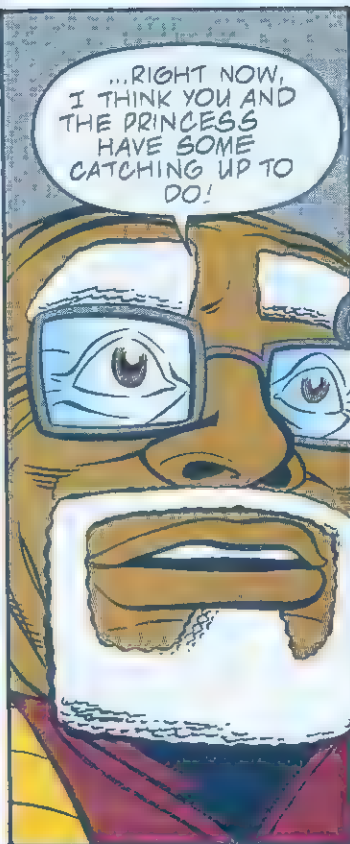


I NEVER
THOUGHT I'D
SEE YOU AGAIN,
NATE...

NOR I YOU,
QUEEN ALICIA, BUT
WE'LL HAVE TIME
TO REMINISCE
LATER...



...RIGHT NOW,
I THINK YOU AND
THE PRINCESS
HAVE SOME
CATCHING UP TO
DO!



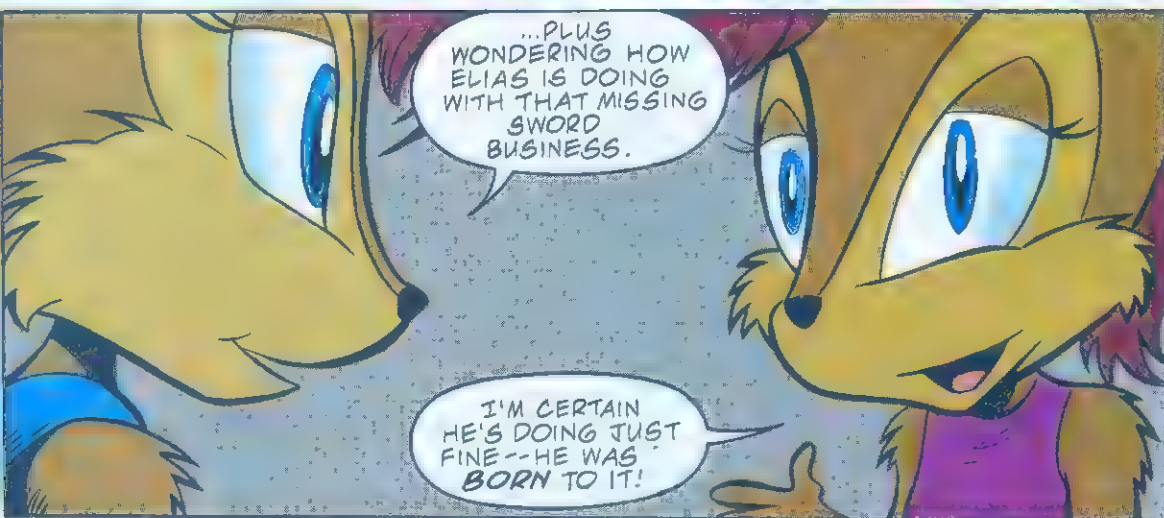
HE'S RIGHT,
SALLY, BUT IS
SOMETHING
TROUBLING
YOU? YOUR
FATHER?

YES..

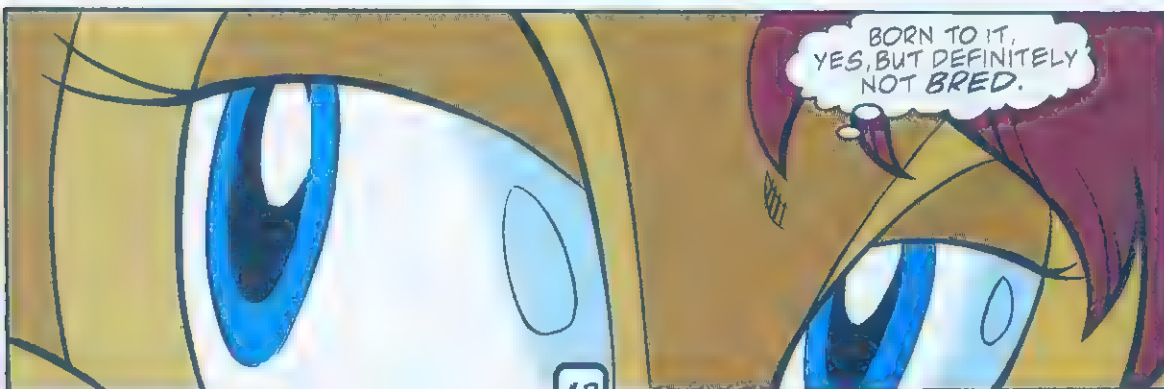


...PLUS
WONDERING HOW
ELIAS IS DOING
WITH THAT MISSING
SWORD
BUSINESS.

I'M CERTAIN
HE'S DOING JUST
FINE--HE WAS
BORN TO IT!



BORN TO IT,
YES, BUT DEFINITELY
NOT BRED.



ELSEWHERE..

SO EVERYBODY
RELOCATED
HERE AFTER
ROBOTNIK
INVADED?

YEP.



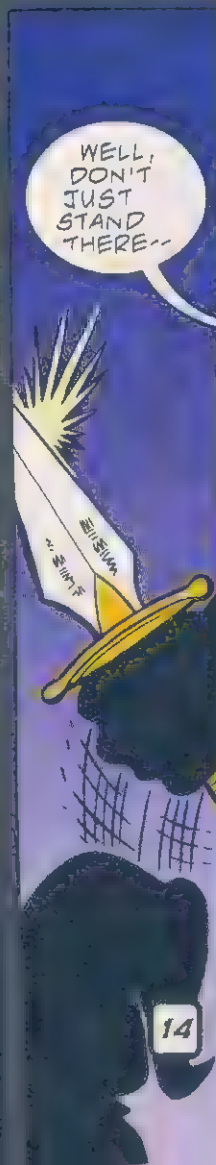
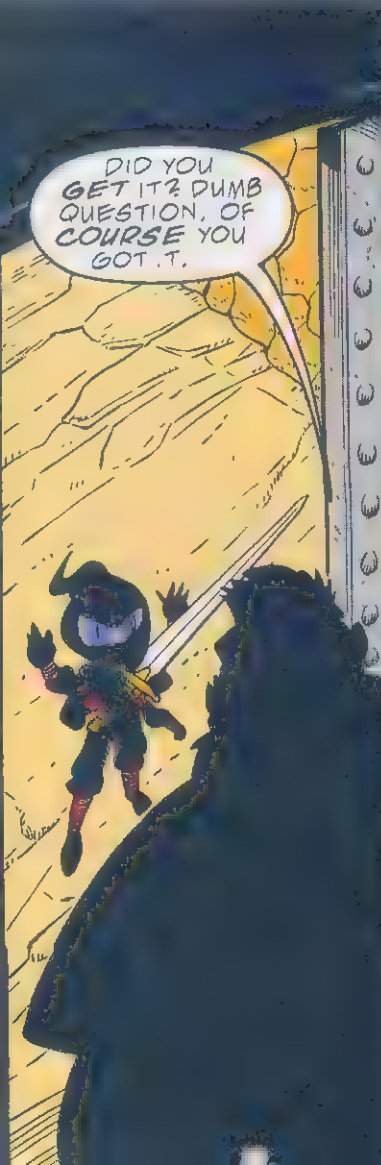
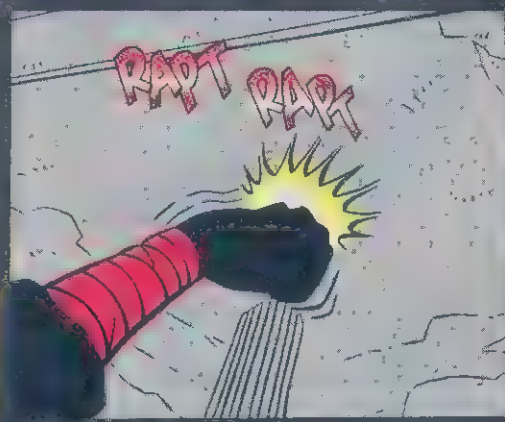
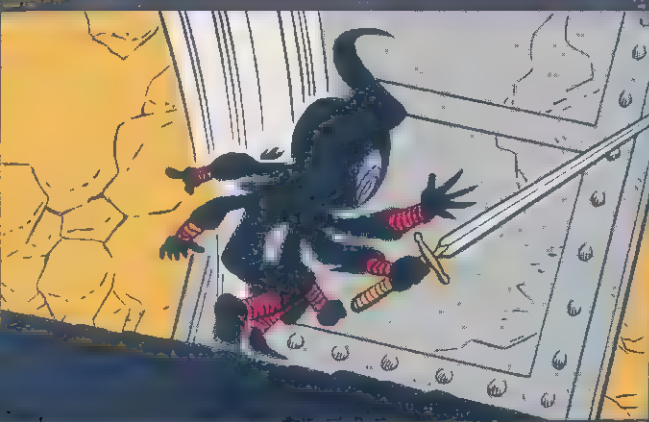
SAY, ARE YOU
A NEW FREEDOM
FIGHTER?

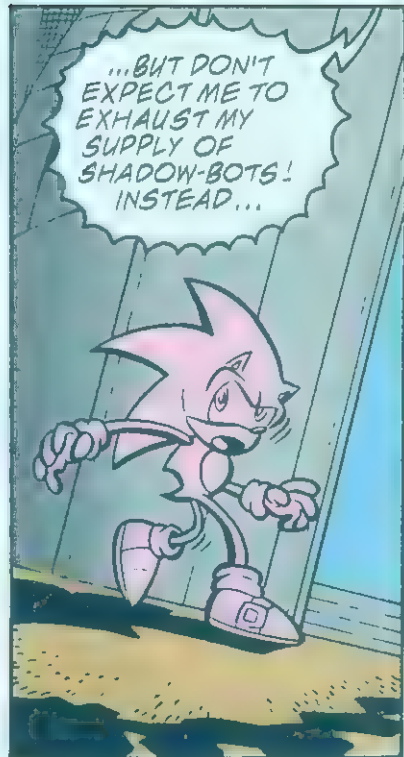
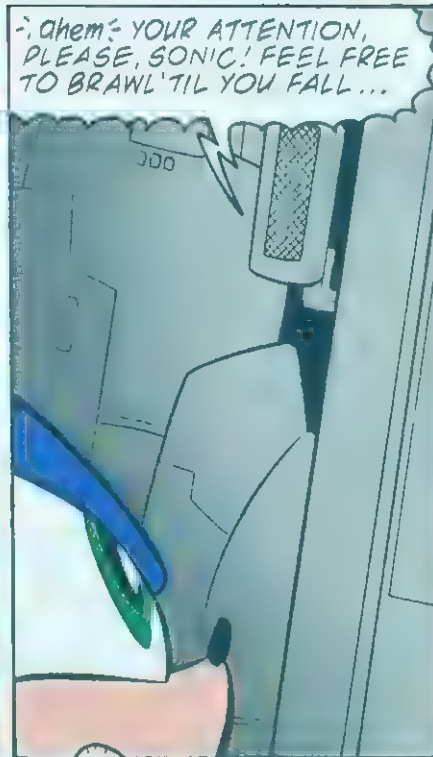
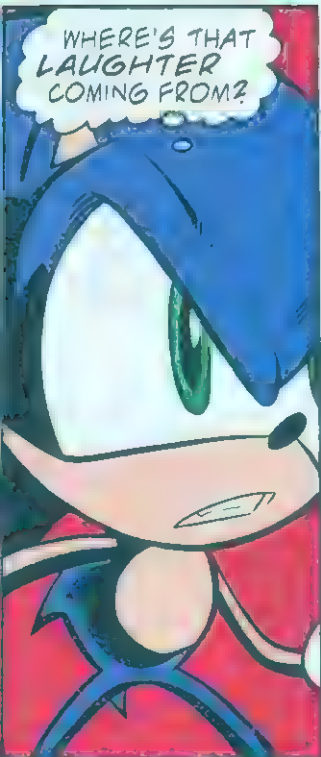
GET
OUTTA TOWN
-- I'M JUST A
BABY-
SITTER!

THEN, I DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHY
YOU WERE WITH
SON--

LOOK
GEOFFREY!
ROTOR'S
RETURNED..

BENEATH THE STREETS
OF ROBOTROPOLIS.



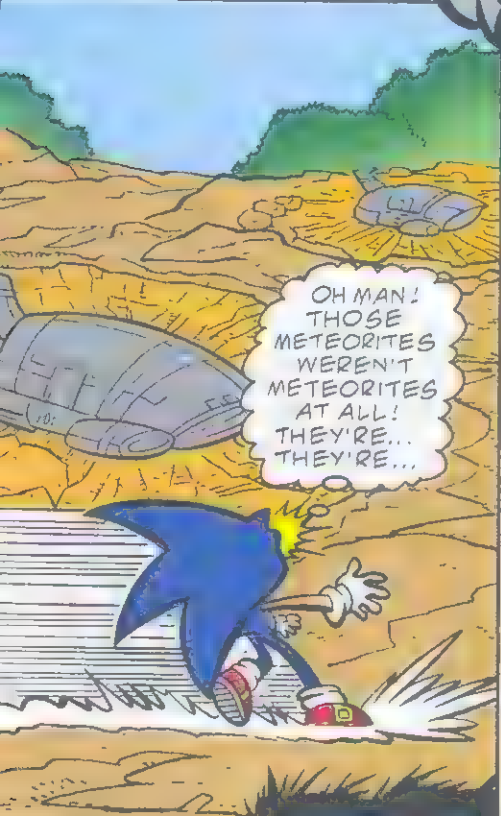




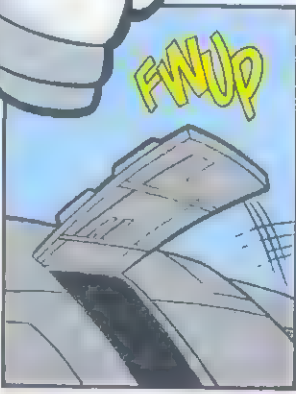
SORRY, SONNY-BOY--
I COULD JUST GO WITH YOU.
BUT SOMEONE'S GOTTA KEEP
AN EYE ON ROBOTNIK!



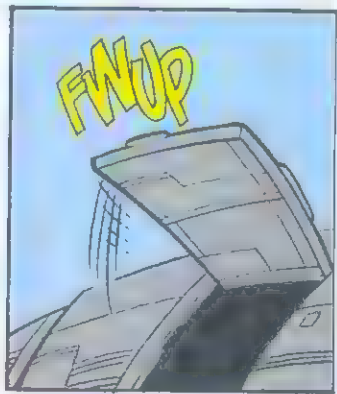
"DON'T WORRY,
THOUGH. I'LL
FIND A WAY TO
GET IN TOUCH!"



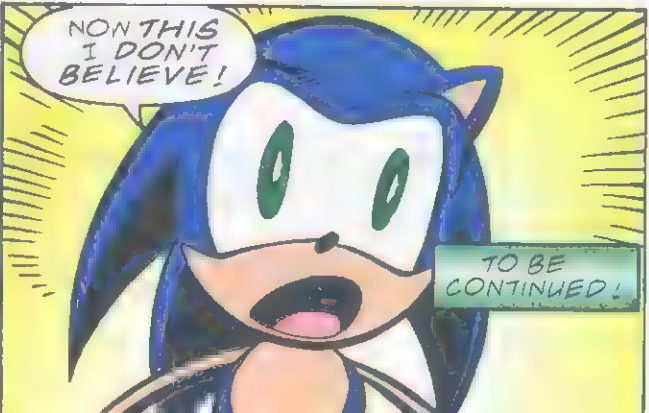
OH MAN!
THOSE
METEORITES
WEREN'T
METEORITES
AT ALL!
THEY'RE...
THEY'RE...



FWUP



FWUP



NON THIS
I DON'T
BELIEVE!

TO BE
CONTINUED!

Born to the most noble of Echidna houses, the latest to continue the family heritage and responsibility as Guardian of The Floating Island, defender of all against the forces of evil from the world beyond as well as those who would threaten from within!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

THE SETTING... A WATERING HOLE OF ILL REPUTE!
THE TIME... PRESENT DAY MOBIAN DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS! WHAT'S GOING ON... NEED YOU ASK?

...THEN THERE WAS
THE JOB I WAS ESPECIALLY
PROUD OF!

FASTEST SLICKER
YOU EVER SAW!

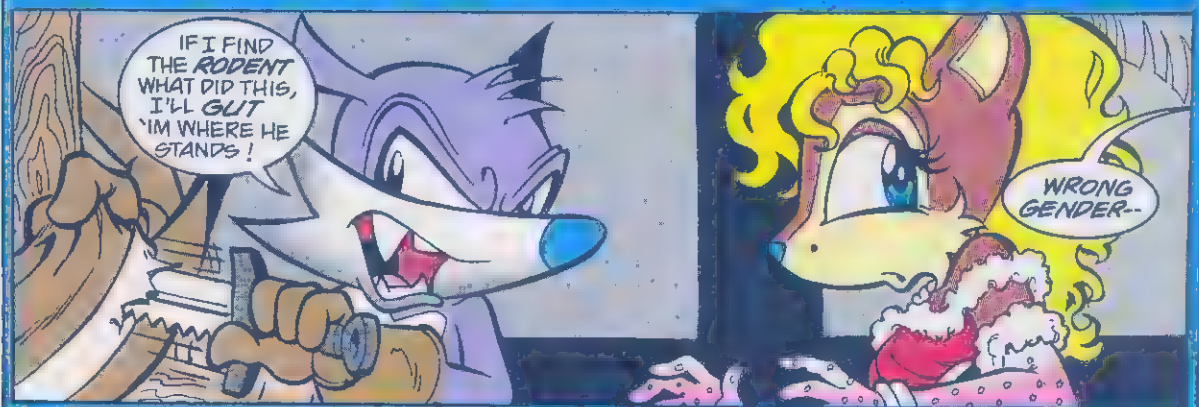
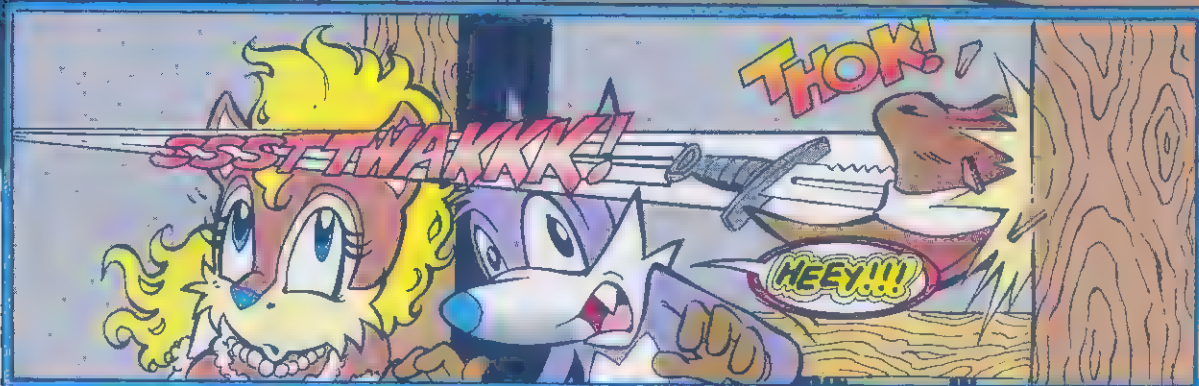
A BLUE
HEDGEHOG,
HE WAS!

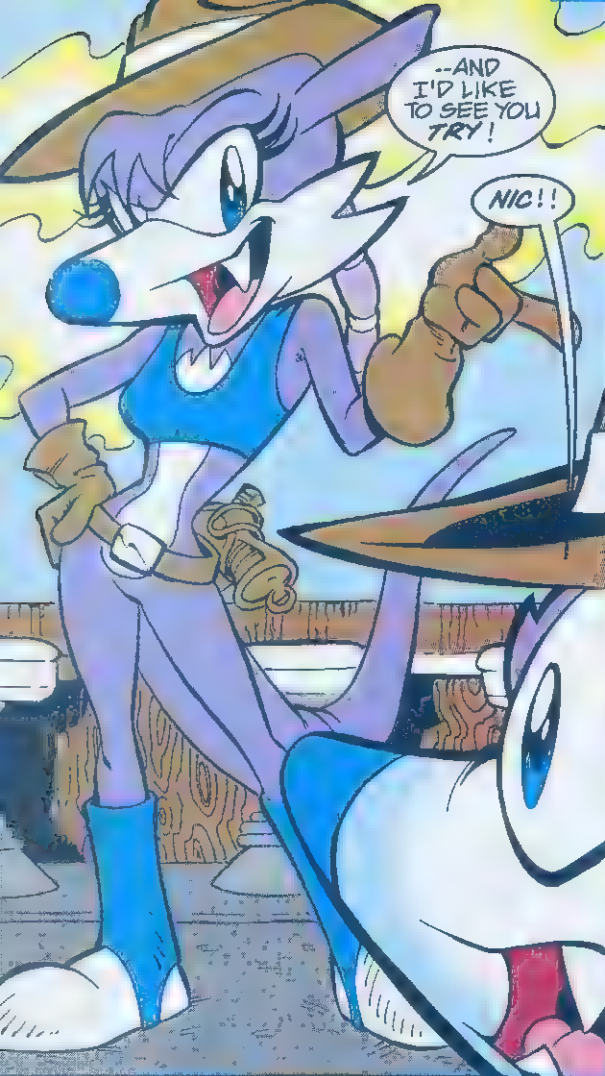
BUT HE HADN'T
EVER RUN INTO NACK
THE WEASEL
BEFORE!

NEITHER
HAVE I!

YOU SHOULD
COME AROUND MORE
OFTEN!

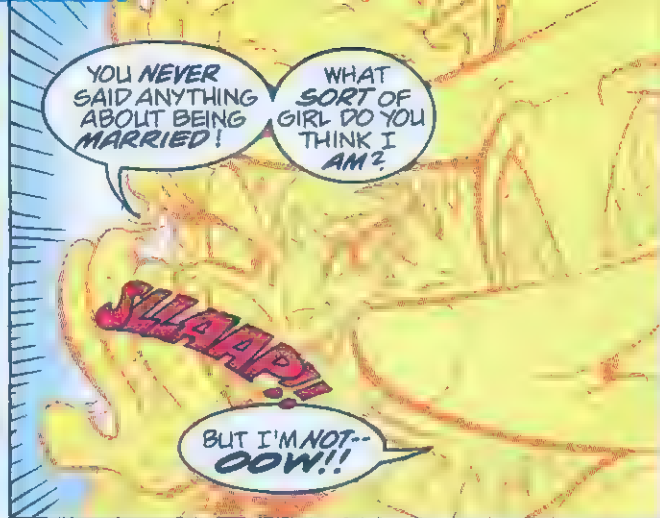
KEN PENDERS- WRITER STEVEN BUTLER-PENCILER
PAM EKLUND- INKER VICKIE WILLIAMS- LETTERER
FRANK GAGLIARDO- COLORIST
JUSTIN GABRIE- EDITOR





--AND
I'D LIKE
TO SEE YOU
TRY!

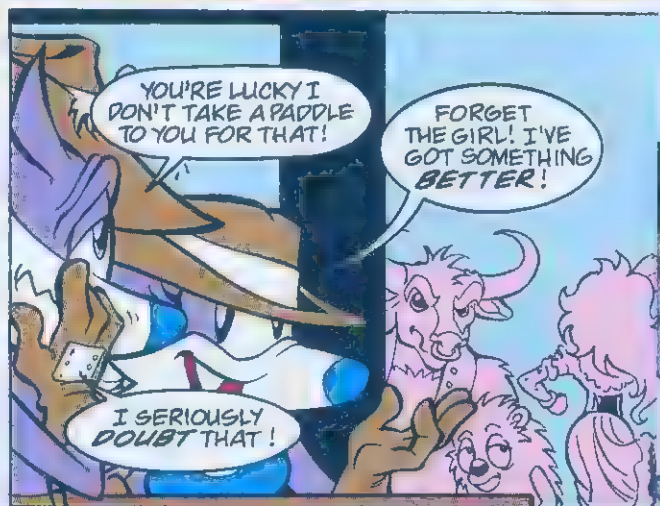
NIC!!



YOU NEVER
SAID ANYTHING
ABOUT BEING
MARRIED!

WHAT
SORT OF
GIRL DO YOU
THINK I
AM?

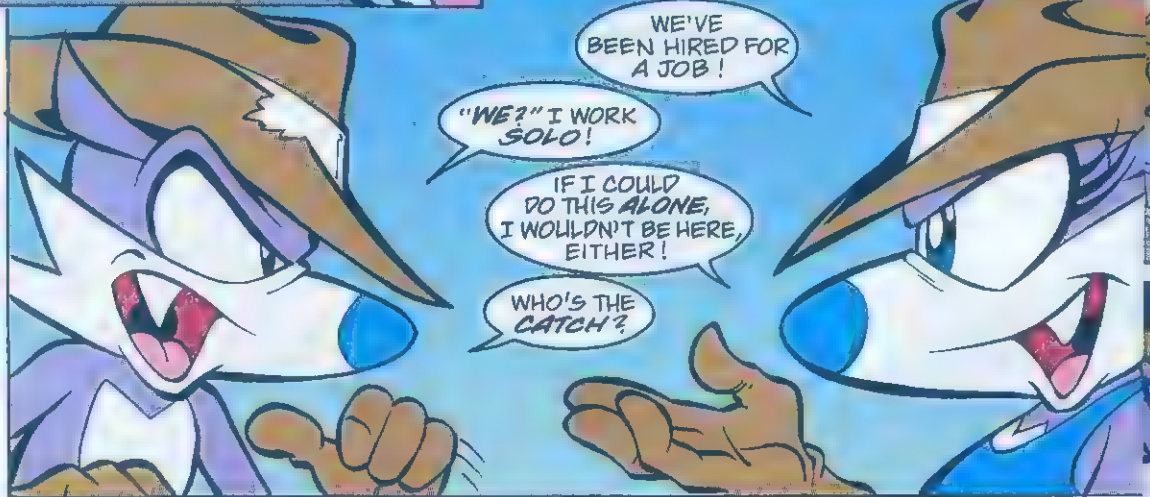
BUT I'M NOT--
OOW!!



YOU'RE LUCKY I
DON'T TAKE A PADDLE
TO YOU FOR THAT!

FORGET
THE GIRL! I'VE
GOT SOMETHING
BETTER!

I SERIOUSLY
DOUBT THAT!



WE'VE
BEEN HIRED FOR
A JOB!

"WE?" I WORK
SOLO!

IF I COULD
DO THIS ALONE,
I WOULDN'T BE HERE,
EITHER!

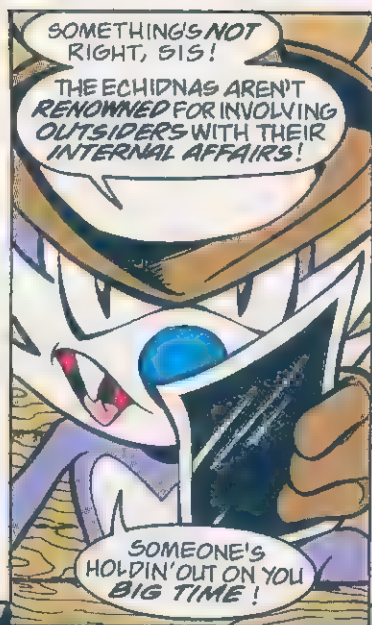
WHO'S THE
CATCH?



HIM!

AND THE
REWARD IS
A KING'S
RANSOM!

SO, ARE
YOU IN OR
OUT?



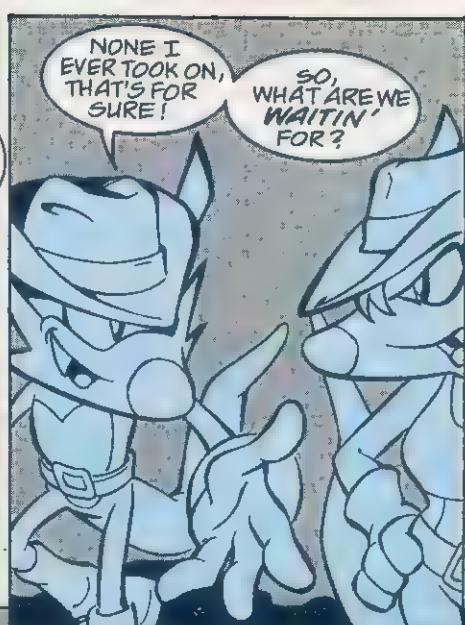
SOMETHING'S **NOT** RIGHT, SIS!

THE ECHIDNAS AREN'T RENOWNED FOR INVOLVING OUTSIDERS WITH THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS!

SOMEONE'S HOLDIN' OUT ON YOU **BIG TIME!**

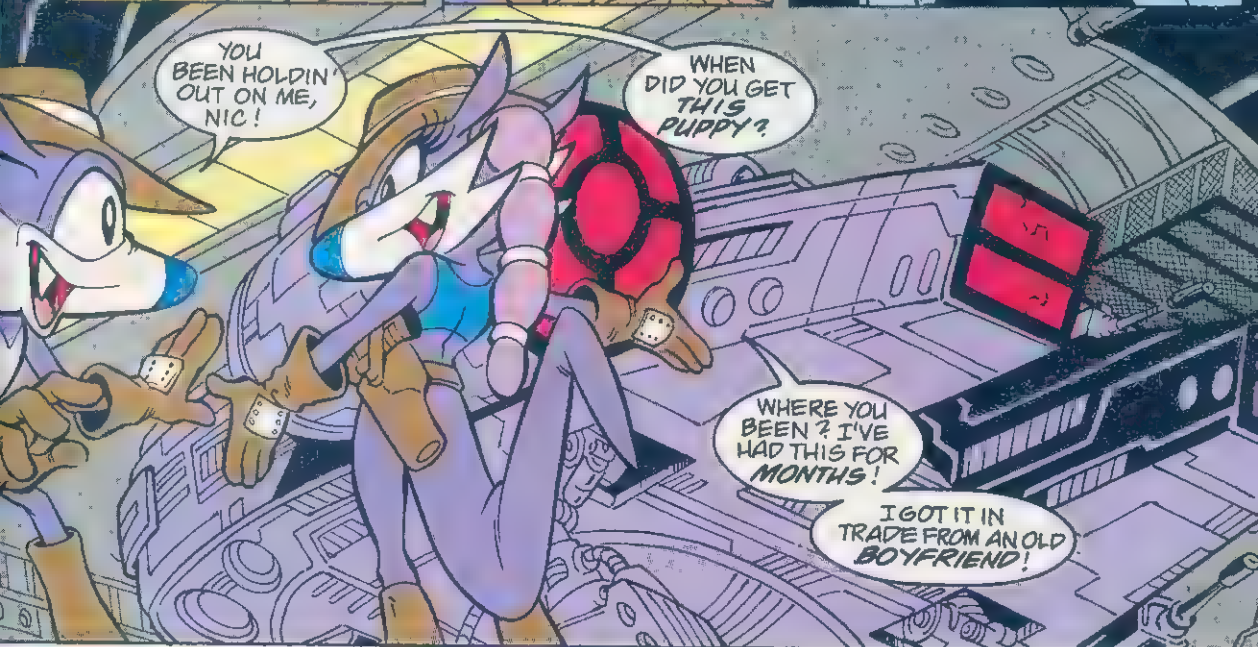


WHAT JOB **DOESN'T** COME WITH A BIT OF RISK, BRO'??



NONE I EVER TOOK ON, THAT'S FOR SURE!

SO, WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR?

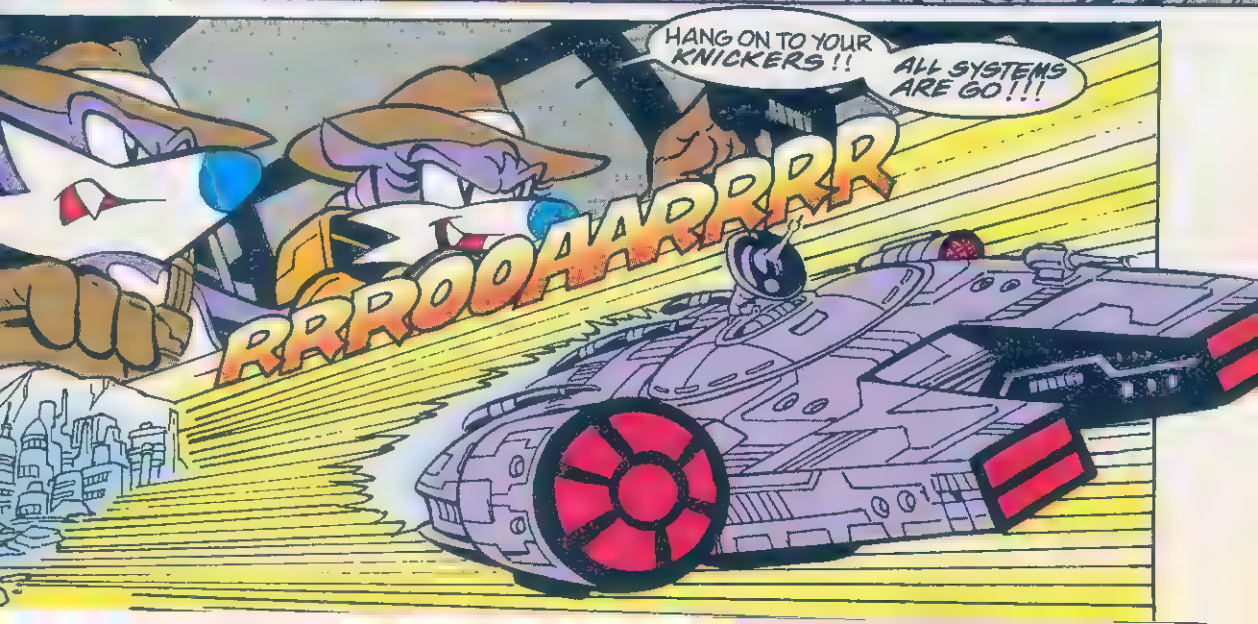


YOU BEEN HOLDIN' OUT ON ME, NIC!

WHEN DID YOU GET THIS PUPPY?

WHERE YOU BEEN? I'VE HAD THIS FOR MONTHS!

I GOT IT IN TRADE FROM AN OLD BOYFRIEND!



HANG ON TO YOUR KNICKERS !!

ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO !!!

RRROOARRRR

JUST ONE QUESTION--

--YOU SURE THIS IS THE WAY TO THE FLOATING ISLAND?

WE'RE NOT GOING THERE!

WE'RE NOT?!

BUT--

THE ISLAND'S NOT THE ONLY PLACE ON MOBIUS WHERE ECHIDNAS HANG OUT!

I WAS GIVEN DIRECTIONS WHERE TO GO AND THEY WOULD TAKE OVER AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT!

SINCE WHEN?

LIKE FOREVER! AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THEY TOLD ME!

THEY'RE REAL BIG INTO PRIVACY!

LET'S JUST HOPE YOU HAVEN'T BITTEN OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE!

WEIRD!

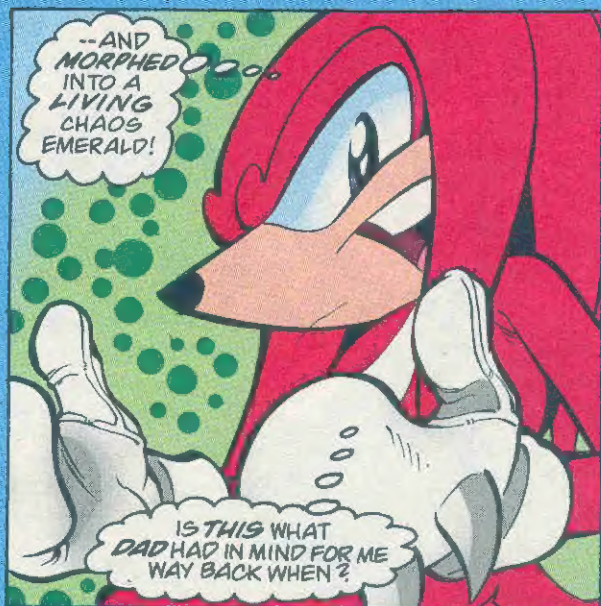
GOT A BAD FEELING ALL OF A SUDDEN!



BIG DEAL!

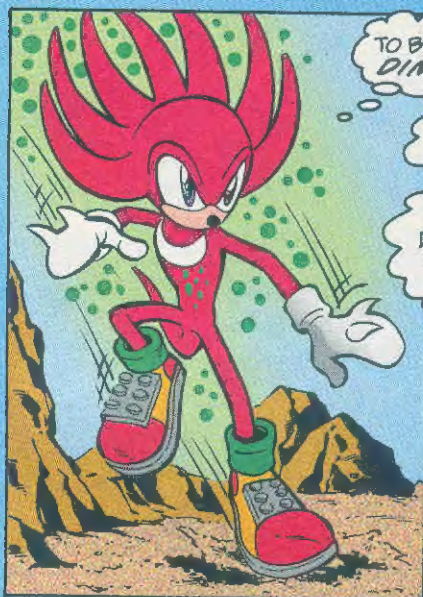
LIKE THAT'S ANYTHING NEW

I'VE GONE FROM BEING GUARDIAN OF THE CHAOS EMERALD--



--AND MORPHED INTO A LIVING CHAOS EMERALD!

IS THIS WHAT DAD HAD IN MIND FOR ME WAY BACK WHEN?



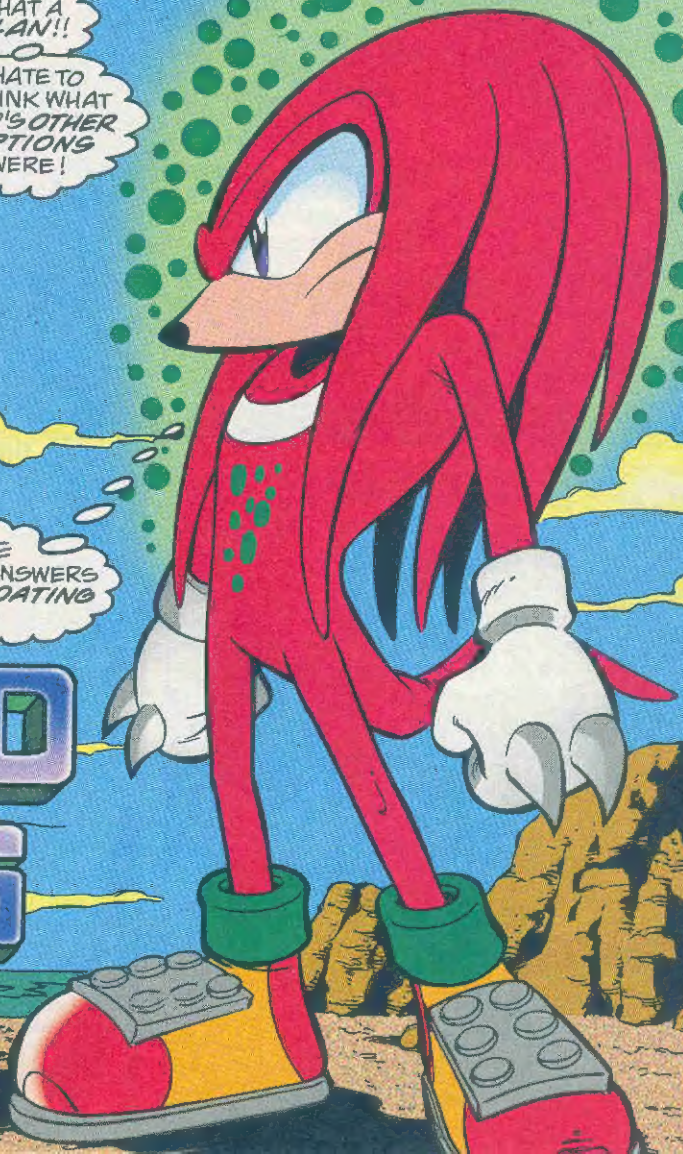
TO BECOME LIKE DIMITRI?!

WHAT A PLAN!!

HATE TO THINK WHAT DAD'S OTHER OPTIONS WERE!

I JUST HOPE THERE'S SOME ANSWERS BACK ON THE FLOATING ISLAND--

HIRED GUNS



"--WHEREVER
IT IS!"

I DON'T GET IT!

THE COORDINATES
THE ECHIDNAS GAVE ME
ARE BEYOND THE ISLAND
WE'RE PASSING OVER!

MAYBE IT'S A
TEST TO SEE IF
YOU'RE WORTH
THE MONEY!

BA-D'HOOM!

WE'RE BUCKING!

YOU SURE
YOU KNOW HOW
TO PILOT THIS
THING?!

I'M NOT
DOING ANY-
THING!!!

THE
GUIDANCE
SYSTEM HAS
GONE AUTO-
MATIC!!

YOU SURE
YOU KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE DEALING
WITH, NIC?!

AT THIS
POINT, I'M NOT
SO SURE!

HEY! THAT
HUNK'A DIRT
WASN'T THERE
A SECOND
AGO!

ATTENTION, BOUNTY-
ONE!! THIS IS ALBION
FLIGHT CONTROL!!

WE
HAVE ASSUMED
CONTROL OF YOUR
VEHICLE--

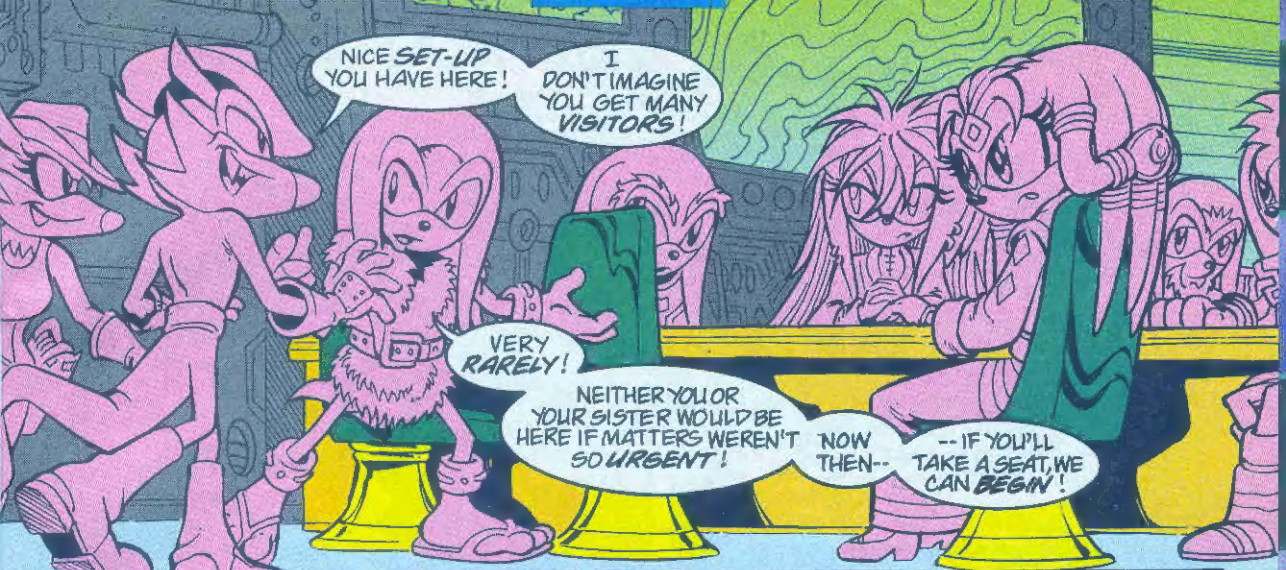
--AND ARE NOW
SENDING THE DATA INTO
YOUR SYSTEM TO BRING YOU
IN NICE AND SMOOTH!

HAPPY LANDINGS--
AND WELCOME TO
ALBION!

RIGHT ON
THE MONEY!
THESE GUYS
DON'T MESS
AROUND!

JUST
REMEMBER, THEY
CAME TO ME
FIRST!

WHOOOSH!



NICE SET-UP
YOU HAVE HERE!

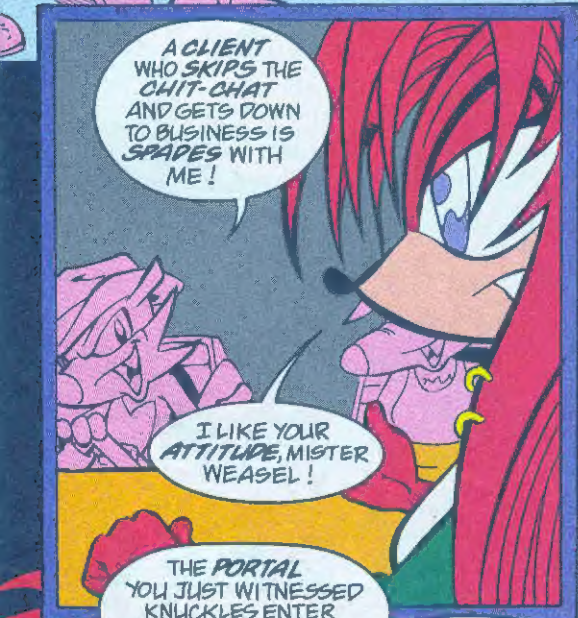
I
DON'T IMAGINE
YOU GET MANY
VISITORS!

VERY
RARELY!

NEITHER YOU OR
YOUR SISTER WOULD BE
HERE IF MATTERS WEREN'T
SO URGENT!

NOW
THEN--

-- IF YOU'LL
TAKE A SEAT, WE
CAN **BEGIN**!

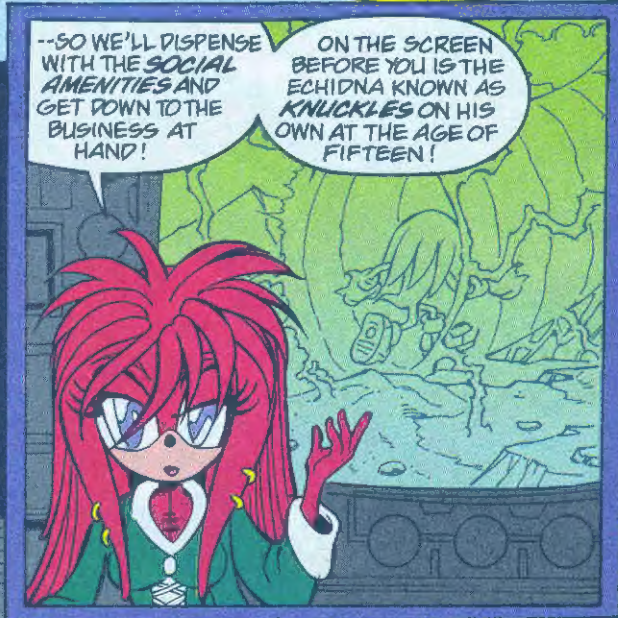


A CLIENT
WHO **SKIPS** THE
CHIT-CHAT
AND GETS DOWN
TO BUSINESS IS
SPARES WITH
ME!

I LIKE YOUR
ATTITUDE, MISTER
WEASEL!

THE **PORTAL**
YOU JUST WITNESSED
KNUCKLES ENTER
WAS NOT ARTIFICIALLY
CREATED--

-- BUT
RATHER **SELF-
GENERATED**!



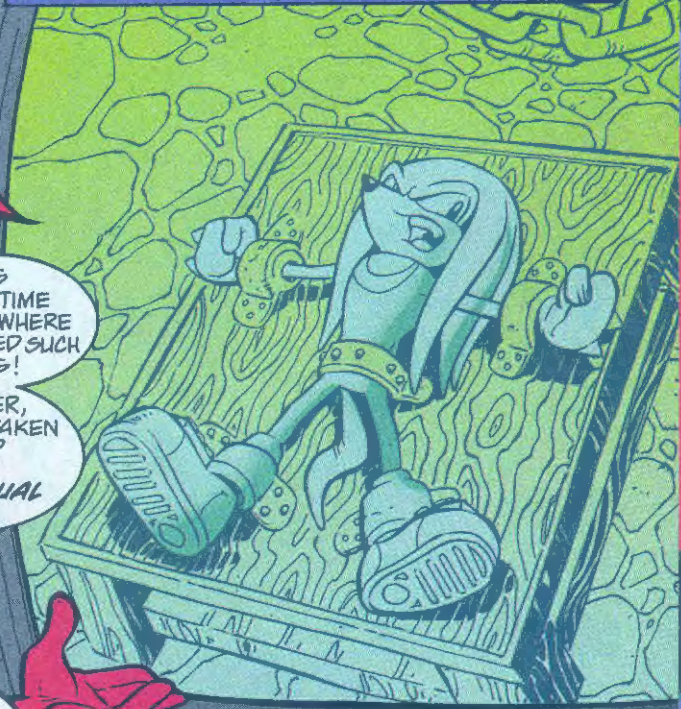
--SO WE'LL DISPENSE
WITH THE **SOCIAL
AMENITIES** AND
GET DOWN TO THE
BUSINESS AT
HAND!

ON THE SCREEN
BEFORE YOU IS THE
ECHIDNA KNOWN AS
KNUCKLES ON HIS
OWN AT THE AGE OF
FIFTEEN!



THIS WAS
THE **FIRST** TIME
WE KNOW OF WHERE
HE MANIFESTED SUCH
ABILITIES!

MONTHS LATER,
KNUCKLES WAS TAKEN
CAPTIVE AND
SUBJECTED
TO SOME **UNUSUAL
TESTS**--



-- WITH
UNEXPECTED
RESULTS!

KNUCKLES' LATENT
ABILITIES WERE NOW FULLY
ACTIVE, EVEN THOUGH HE
WAS NOT COGNIZANT OF
THAT FACT!

RECENTLY, KNUCKLES LEFT
US, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH
HASTENED FURTHER MUTATION--

-- MAKING HIM A DANGER TO ANY HE
COMES INTO CONTACT WITH!

SO, ARE
YOU ASKING US
TO TAKE HIM
OUT?

ONLY AS A LAST
RESORT!

WE'D MUCH PREFER
HE BE RETURNED TO US
SO WE CAN DEAL WITH
HIS PROBLEM!

WE'LL DOUBLE
THE BONUS IF YOU
DO BRING HIM BACK
ALIVE!

THINK THEY'RE
UP TO THE TASK,
GALA-NA?

THEY'RE
JUST THE
SMOKESCREEN,
MYKOL!

ONCE
THEY LEAD
US TO
KNUCKLES--

-- ONLY
THEN WILL WE
DIRTY OUR
HANDS!

NEXT: THE BIG CAT
AND MOUSE! (-- WHERE
NOTHING IS AS IT SEEMS!)

ADIOS
MUCHACHOS
STEVED
BUTLER
OO